We are living in times like never before. The obstacles we face have affected each and every individual globally, unifying us in the effort to heal our collective circumstance.

Because tomorrow isn’t promised, the momentum of positivity is key. As our stability quakes, we can take comfort in the acceptance in life’s single certainty: change.

Utilizing the constantly shifting sands, equipped with clear vision and the development of an ongoing and long-term strategy, will be crucial as we continue to collectivize to focus on the big picture, a reality where human rights & equality are emphasized.

It is essential that we continue to prioritize every chance to get to know one another, learn of our commonalities, and join forces to fight for the reforms we seek.

Haymarket continues to support the groups that realize the importance of community organizing to combat intense and threatening forces. Diligence is vital in continuing to sustain their work. Amidst the storm of both natural and political upheaval, their lives are dependent on tackling the oppressions that confront them.

We must celebrate every benchmark, whether large or small, knowing that the pathway toward societal change is ongoing. There is cause and reason to uplift our victories. Taking care of ourselves and supporting one another, as we take the singular steps that make up the greater vision, will sustain us in our progress.

Karla M. Nicholson
Executive Director
Abdifatah Ahmed

Abdifatah Ahmed left Mogadishu, Somalia in 1992 at the age of fourteen when civil war disrupted his education and family. He lived in a new refugee camp in Kenya for over a year before being resettled to Cambridge, MA where his family was reunited. Abdifatah worked very hard and was driven academically. He received his Doctorate of Pharmacy fourteen years ago from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Recruited to Maine in 2003, he has worked in Portland, Topsham and Lewiston/Auburn where he now lives with his wife and five children. Abdifatah is an advocate for people living in poverty and cares about encouraging others to engage in civic life and healthy choices.

Shaznene Hussain

Shaznene works as a community educator and tenant organizer at the Connecticut Fair Housing Center, where she collaborates with her co-workers, community organizations, and service providers to address discrimination in housing and with tenants organizing to defend against evictions. She also volunteers and works with community organizers, activists, and collectives in Connecticut and throughout the region on campaigns to address climate justice, racial justice, and immigrants rights issues. Shaznene completed her doctorate in Political Science at the University of Connecticut, taught courses in international studies, human rights, and gender studies, and served as a Trustee of the Graduate Employee Union.

2020 RECAP

In 2020 Haymarket distributed a total of $1,402,375 to groups in New England:

- 55 Sustaining Grants
- 199 Urgent Response Grants
Muslim Justice League (MJL) is a rights-based organization that was founded in 2014 by four Muslim Women in response to a need for defense of the Muslim communities’ human and civil rights against the “War on Terror.” Widely diverse Muslim populations are on the frontline of many issues that MJL is working to address. However, MJL’s mission is to organize and advocate for all communities who are discriminatorily surveilled and policed. MJL is based in Boston, MA, and collaborates with local and national groups who are working within communities that are heavily impacted by surveillance and policing, with the principle that discrimination toward any group endangers the rights of everyone.

MJL continues to battle Islamophobia, racism, and over-policing with advocacy programs like #StopCVE which brings awareness to the idea that demands for justice and equality should not equate to “radical” beliefs. MJL will continue to emphasize that collaboration among grassroots groups and persistence in educating and advocating, as necessary elements to ensure justice and equality for ALL communities.

CVE (Department of Homeland Security’s Countering Violent Extremism) programs recruit trusted members of the community – such as doctors, counselors, teachers, and religious leaders – to serve as local partners to help identify people who may be “radical and vulnerable to extremism.”

https://muslimjusticeleague.org/
Maine Immigrants’ Rights Coalition

Maine Immigrants’ Rights Coalition (MIRC) is an independent, immigrant-led non-profit organization that strives to improve the legal, social, and economic conditions experienced by Maine’s immigrants.

In their role, MIRC is able to advocate for the advancement of policies supporting immigrants, collaborate with coalition members to create and support programs and policies that promote immigrant inclusion and integration and be a resource for information sharing among communities of immigrants.

To respond to the ongoing pandemic, MIRC’s work has been two-fold. First, MIRC aimed to bridge the gap between the public health care system and immigrant communities by being a convener of vital public health information. MIRC gathered resources from local, state, and federal officials, as well as recommendations from the CDC – and saved them on an easily accessible Google Drive (translated to various languages) to share with coalition members.

MIRC continues to bring collaborative advocacy for policy development at state and city levels to advance systemic change and equity in Maine by ensuring that immigrants’ voices are heard when issues impacting their daily lives and economic integration come before the legislature.

https://maineimmigrantrights.org/
Peggy Zhang is a graduate student at The Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, where she is working on dual Masters’ degrees in Business Administration and Sustainable International Development. Peggy began her career in Pittsburgh, as an analyst in the private sector, before moving to Mozambique to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Since arriving at The Heller School, she has focused her work on transforming the role of businesses in creating sustainable changes for racial justice and climate justice. This summer with Haymarket, Peggy spoke with many of Haymarket’s grantees to learn about the work they are doing to help their communities. Peggy worked with classmates from her summer marketing class to help map out a redesign and enhancement of our digital presence, in order to ensure Haymarket’s messages are able to reach greater audiences. Although COVID-19 prevented her from ever setting foot into Haymarket’s offices or meeting any of Haymarket staff members in person – Peggy enjoyed the rich experiences she gained from working with Haymarket staff, and valued learning about Haymarket’s participatory grant-making process.

Sustainer Testimonial
Zaskya Perez

“As a first-generation Afro-Latinx raised in Boston, I am deeply aware of the ways that race, class, gender, and immigration status have shaped my experiences of being excluded and unsupported while navigating predominately white institutions. I am a mother raising a Black boy in a country built at the expense of Black and Brown people; I understand now more than ever the importance of working to dismantle the ways that white supremacist culture shows up in our institutions, policies, practices, and ways of decision-making that maintain power. I give to the Haymarket People’s Fund because I value the way they support and uplift front-line grassroots community organizations. Becoming a sustainer is a tangible way to make an ongoing impact”

Learn more about becoming a Sustainer!

Special Thanks to Haymarket Intern

Peggy Zhang is a graduate student at The Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, where she is working on dual Masters’ degrees in Business Administration and Sustainable International Development. Peggy began her career in Pittsburgh, as an analyst in the private sector, before moving to Mozambique to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Since arriving at The Heller School, she has focused her work on transforming the role of businesses in creating sustainable changes for racial justice and climate justice. This summer with Haymarket, Peggy spoke with many of Haymarket’s grantees to learn about the work they are doing to help their communities. Peggy worked with classmates from her summer marketing class to help map out a redesign and enhancement of our digital presence, in order to ensure Haymarket’s messages are able to reach greater audiences. Although COVID-19 prevented her from ever setting foot into Haymarket’s offices or meeting any of Haymarket staff members in person – Peggy enjoyed the rich experiences she gained from working with Haymarket staff, and valued learning about Haymarket’s participatory grant-making process.
Meet Board Member, Brenda Lett.

Brenda has served as the National Secretary of the National Coalition Of Blacks for Reparations in America (N’COBRA), Board Chair of NH Black Women Health Project, Board Member, of the Greater Manchester Black Scholarship Foundation and Former President, NAACP Manchester Branch. She has her Masters in Community Mental Health and Community Economic Development from Southern NH University and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from University of Dubuque. She is a committed community activist and social justice advocate.

Honoring the Work of Chanravy Proeung

Chanravy Proeung is the co-founder and former Political Director for SISTA FIRE, an organization that seeks to support and nurture womxn of color to come together to build collective power for social, economic and political transformation in Providence, Rhode Island. Chanravy will be joining Haymarket’s board, as well as continuing to participate on our Funding Panel.
In a time where all events and gatherings were canceled, the annual Lobsterfeed made refreshing lemonade out of the bowl of lemons offered up this year. In lieu of an in-person event Haymarket was honored to partner with other local grassroots organizations in the first ever virtual Celebration of Grassroots Organizing in Boston! Traditionally held every summer in Haymarket’s back yard, the event has served has an opportunity to convene and celebrate since 2012.

This year’s virtual circle of gratitude, held on August 4th, was a resounding success, creating a virtual space to gather and recognize the inspiring work of local grassroots organizations. With over 100 attendees and more than 350 donations the event raised $96,000 in support of the bold and visionary work of the event partners: Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW), Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE), Families for Justice as Healing (FJAH), Haymarket People’s Fund, Muslim Justice League (MJL), New England United for Justice (NEU4J), Resist, Student Immigrant Movement (SIM), GreenRoots, Matahari, Youth Justice and Power Union (YJPU).

We wish to express our deep gratitude to the Lobsterfeed team who made this fundraiser such a success in the midst of a pandemic, when support for our communities is most essential, to the sponsors who made it possible, to our fellow partners and all who contributed and participated in this groundbreaking event!
Despite the uncertainty and hardship, we are grateful to be reflecting on a year of growth and achievement. In 2020 Haymarket increased our sustaining grants and gave the highest amount of urgent response funding we have ever seen to support organizations in the face of Covid-19. As we look forward to the year ahead we are strengthened in our resolve to continue sustaining the movement and responding to the immediate needs of our community.

Having just kicked off the 2021 grant cycle we are still awaiting grant decisions. Due to an anticipated increase in Sustaining Grants we have also budgeted accordingly and made our Urgent Response Grants significantly larger given that groups are still responding to Covid-19 and other crises in their communities.

We are happy to announce that Haymarket will be holding a series of virtual grantee gatherings in early 2021. We were deeply disappointed to have to cancel our 10th Anniversary Grantee Gathering in 2020 but we are so excited for the opportunity to come together in the new year!

We are working with grantees to design a dynamic three part series of virtual gatherings focusing on Community Building and Networking Space, Anti-Racism, and Movement Building. Make sure you join our mailing list so that you don’t miss any of these events!

Haymarket and the People’s Institute will continue their partnership in producing the Undoing Racism™ workshops to decode systemic racism. Workshops have now been formatted for the digital platform! Find out about upcoming Virtual workshops at www.pisab.org
In 1998 Haymarket People’s Fund an anti-racist, multi-cultural foundation, embarked on a deliberate process to advance the mission and undo the racism ingrained in every aspect of the organization. This open-ended process has been transformative throughout the structure, staffing, grantmaking, and fundraising activities of Haymarket. During the past decade, Haymarket has rewritten its mission, updated and/or developed organizational policies and practices, changed its leadership structure, and taken steps to shift its organizational culture. To learn more about Haymarket’s anti-racism journey, and obtain copies of “The Courage to Change”, click here or order a copy from a Haymarket staff member by emailing info@haymarket.org.

Ways to Give

☐ I/We want to support Haymarket People’s Fund
☐ I/We am enclosing a check to Haymarket People’s Fund
☐ Here is my contribution of ☐ $1000 ☐ $500 ☐ $100 ☐ $50 ☐ Other $___________
☐ I/We want to be a Sustainer. Please charge $___________ to my credit card each month

Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex

Card# __________________________ Exp___/___ Signature ___________________________

Please contact me for the following: ☐ Gifts of Securities ☐ Planned Giving ☐ I have named Haymarket in my will

Name __________________________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State_________________________ Zip _________________

Please share an email if you’re interested in donor engagement ___________________________________________